United Nations CCPR/C/SR.3568

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Distr.: General
12 November 2018

Original: English

Human Rights Committee
124th session

Summary record of the 3568th meeting
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 2 November 2018, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Shany

Contents

Organizational and other matters, including the adoption of the report of the Working Group on Communications (*continued*)

Announcement of Bureau decisions

Closure of the session

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of the present record to the Documents Management Section (DMS-DCM@un.org).

Any corrected records of the public meetings of the Committee at this session will be reissued for technical reasons after the end of the session.

GE.18-18771 (E) 091118 121118

1818771

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Organizational and other matters, including the adoption of the report of the Working Group on Communications (*continued*)

Announcement of Bureau decisions

1. **The Chair** said that, during the Committee's 124th session, the reports of Belarus, Belize, Bulgaria, Guinea and the Sudan had been considered, and the corresponding concluding observations had been adopted and made public. It was worth noting that it had been the first time in over two decades that three of those States parties, namely Belize, Guinea and Belarus, had appeared before the Committee. The review of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had been postponed to the Committee's 125th session.

2. The Committee had adopted lists of issues for five States parties: Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania, Nigeria, Tajikistan, and Trinidad and Tobago. It had also adopted a report on follow-up to concluding observations which had highlighted positive developments in five countries. In addition, it had adopted decisions on 23 individual communications: 4 cases had been declared inadmissible, 4 cases had been discontinued and 15 cases had been decided on the merits, with violations found in 14 cases and no violation found in 1 case.

3. After almost four years of hard work and engagement with a variety of stakeholders, the Committee had adopted its general comment No. 36 on article 6 of the Covenant (Right to life), and he wished to pay tribute in that connection to the late Sir Nigel Rodley for his exceptional contribution to the drafting process. The advance unedited version of the text had been uploaded to the Committee's website. The Committee had decided to hold an open meeting with stakeholders in March 2019 in preparation for the drafting of its next general comment, on article 21 of the Covenant, for which Mr. Heyns had been designated as rapporteur.

4. The Committee had adopted its revised rules of procedure and two documents on methods of work: one on criteria pertaining to the review of States parties with seriously deteriorating human rights conditions and one setting out guidance on identifying cases for oral comments. It had also considered and decided to endorse, on the basis of certain understandings, the document on possible elements of a common aligned procedure for follow-up to decisions and Views (A/73/140, annex II) that had been adopted at the thirtieth annual meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies.

5. In an effort to strengthen its relationship with other treaty bodies, the Committee had designated Ms. Brands Kehris as focal point for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; Mr. Santos Pais as focal point for the Committee on the Rights of the Child; and Ms. Abdo Rocholl as focal point for the inter-American system. It had met with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to exchange views on issues of common interest, such as harmful traditional practices and the right to life. In addition, the Bureau of the Human Rights Committee had met with the Bureau of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. At that meeting, it had been decided that the two Committees would, firstly, pilot a coordinated reporting procedure whereby they would collaborate on the drafting of lists of issues in order to minimize overlap and, secondly, draft a joint statement on freedom of association.

6. The Committee had held a well-attended informal meeting with States parties to the Covenant and a fruitful meeting with the new United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Lastly, it had added its endorsement to a joint statement on human rights defenders endorsed by a number of human rights treaty bodies, members of treaty bodies in their individual capacity and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. The statement had been issued on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

7. The minutes of the four general Bureau meetings had been circulated. He took it that the Committee wished to adopt the Bureau's recommendations.

8. *It was so decided.*

Closure of the session

9. After the customary exchange of courtesies, **the Chair** declared the 124th session of the Human Rights Committee closed.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.